

Partners in English Language Learning

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We help English language learners become thriving members of our community by offering one-on-one English language tutoring, and building bridges that foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, and friendship.

Fall/Winter
2012-2013

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English language gives each individual the voice to be heard in our community.

Letter from Myra Arstein, Board President

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

During the past ten years that I have been associated with Partners in English Language Learning (PiELL), we have grown tremendously and have developed many programs to help our learners become thriving members of our community.

We have developed a Resource Tutor Mentoring program, and have greatly improved our Student Intake Evaluation and New Tutor Training programs. We have developed many tools to aid our tutors and learners, including tutor-training videos. In addition, we've received generous in-kind donations of computer equipment and software. We hope that these efforts will further aid our student learners in their quest to become proficient in English as a second language.

In 2008, we reframed our organization with a new name, logo, and style, and we aligned our brochures, letterhead, business cards, and website to reflect our new image and purpose. Our volunteers have worked hard at increasing our stewardship through public announcements, television interviews, newspaper articles, our semi-annual newsletter, and our website – www.piell.org – in order to increase community awareness of the service we have provided in Western Nevada County for over 25 years.

Our Board did the hard work of putting in place the infrastructure required to be compliant as a non-profit entity by improving our Bylaws and setting in place the appropriate policies, procedures, and job/duties descriptions. We also increased our financial stability through grant writing efforts, fundraising programs, such as Scrip, and fundraising events underwritten by local restaurants (Northridge of Nevada City and Papa Murphy's-Brunswick Basin), and, especially, with office space provided by the Grass Valley School District.

Currently, PiELL supports 61 learners who are matched with 47 tutors. PiELL is supported as an organization by a small but active Board of Directors and by YOU, our volunteers and donors. We can't thank you enough for allowing us to continue this vital program and hope that we can count on your continued support.

Warm regards,



Myra Arstein, President
Partners in English Language Learning

“Never make fun of someone who speaks broken English. It means they know another language.” ~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Shopping for the Holidays?

Consider ordering Scrip from our Scrip Coordinator, Kathy Mollet, in advance of your holiday purchases or for gift giving! Scrip certificates can be in your hands within hours or gift cards can be in your hands within 3 days of your request.

To see what businesses support Scrip, visit the Great Lakes Scrip Center “catalog” at <http://www.glscrip.com/shop/Search.aspx?SearchType=2&CategoryID=0&PageIndex=1>. Each business lists the % of the purchase that is credited to PiELL, as well as the dollar denominations that can be issued.

Happy Shopping!!



Board President Myra Arstein, with PiELL Board Secretary and Intake Evaluation Program Chair Nancy Guenther, during the recent PiELL Potluck.





PiELL Intake Evaluation Program

By PiELL Intake Evaluation Program Chair, Nancy Guenther

How do students hear about us and what happens after they contact PiELL? Students hear about our program in many ways: from other agencies, friends, relatives, co-workers, our brochure, student outreach, an on-line search, or a current or former student, to name a few. After the potential student calls the PiELL office, their name and phone number goes out to the Intake Evaluation Program chair. There are four evaluators currently in this program including the program chair. All of these evaluators speak varying degrees of Spanish. Once the contact information is received, one of the evaluators is assigned to contact the student and schedule an initial interview. If the student speaks a language other than Spanish, the evaluators will sometimes have to arrange for an interpreter to be present during this initial interview.

During the interview, the evaluator obtains the student's background information with an emphasis on prior education and English instruction, the specific goals and reasons for learning English, and the days and times that the student is available for instruction. The evaluator takes the time to answer any questions the new student may have about our program and to emphasize personal responsibility for arriving on time to lessons and making sure there is

someone to care for any small children during the lesson. This information is vital in assisting PiELL in making a good student-tutor match. Then an English assessment is administered. The results of this assessment along with the degree of English evident in the conversation between the new student and the evaluator helps to determine the current English level of the student. Once this determination is made, the information is compiled and sent on to the PiELL office to be used in matching students with tutors.

In the past 21 months, PiELL intake evaluators have interviewed 47 students who have become part of our program. Evaluated students' native countries include Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Argentina, Cuba, Costa Rica, Spain, China and Thailand. Many thanks to our current intake evaluators: Kathryn Eldredge, Jay Schuff and Susan Zlimen.

If you speak a bit of Spanish and are interested in being a part of this rewarding program, please contact me. We'd love to have you join us!

PiELL Needs You

PiELL is facing a very challenging situation this coming year. Two key members of our Board of Directors will soon be stepping down; namely, Myra Arstein, President, and Kathy Mollet, Treasurer. PiELL's Bylaws state that the Board shall consist of no fewer than six members. We don't want to find ourselves unable to continue our important mission of tutoring adults in English as a second language as a result of this loss.

You have already shown that you are committed to supporting PiELL. Now, we hope a few of you will consider joining our Board. If you happen to have accounting skills, that would be especially valuable, since one of the departing Board members is our Treasurer! We meet just once a month for two hours.

If you can step up to help PiELL meet this challenge, please call Nancy Guenther, Nominating Committee Chair.

“If the English language made any sense, lackadaisical would have something to do with a shortage of flowers.”
~Doug Larson



Margarita, a long-time PiELL student, acts as liaison to our Spanish-speaking students during the evaluation process and the matching process.

OUR GENEROUS DONORS (Oct. 1, 2011~Sept. 30, 2012)

FRIENDS \$1-\$49

Wanda Avery
Chris Crain
Cathy Fagan
Margaret Glaeser
Hindi Greenberg
David Kanter
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Grass Valley School District
Ross & Nancy Guenther
Trevor Michael, Margaritas Restaurant
Eric Nielsen
Phil Smith

PiELL Graduate

Written By Donna Cobb, as told by Margaret Glaeser, Tutor

Margaret Glaeser, one of our more senior tutors in her eighties, has been a PiELL Tutor for over 4 years. After taking the New Tutor Training in 2008, she was matched with a young Chinese woman named Ai Ming Situ (Mandy), a young woman in her mid-twenties, who had been in the U.S. for only 9 months.

There have been periods of time when they did not meet, such as when Mandy gave birth to each of her two children. From the time they began, Mandy let Margaret know that she wanted to become a U.S. citizen. They utilized the citizenship materials in the PiELL library, and in early 2011, Mandy passed the U.S. Citizenship Test. This was a very important occasion for Mandy and Margaret.

Before Mandy met Margaret, she had tried joining in the group English classes held by Lisa Stine at the McCourtney Road Adult Education Center. However, she was very shy and self-conscious, and found it was too difficult for her, so she stopped going.

Now, after 4 years of studying English with Margaret, Mandy has graduated from PiELL, with the skills and confidence to do something she has wanted to do for a long time. She has returned to the Adult Education ESL classes, and is comfortable working in the group classes. Not only has Mandy gained English skills and self-confidence, but she and Margaret remain good friends, and continue to stay in touch.

PiELL's 5th Annual Tutor & Student Potluck

By Diane Miessler, Tutor & Board Member

On September 23rd, tutors and students from PiELL attended a potluck picnic at Memorial Park in Grass Valley.

The picnickers enjoyed great food together: barbequed hot dogs, dishes from the students' countries of origin, and salads and desserts provided by PiELL volunteers. They also enjoyed attempts to communicate across the language divide, with limited "second language" skills on both sides. Hilarity, at times, ensued. Many of PiELL's students are working full time and raising children, yet they make time to do the hard work of learning English. All enjoyed spending some time in the park with other students and their tutors.

If you're interested in volunteering for PiELL as a tutor or board member, or know someone who wants to learn English as a second language, please call 274-8428 for more information or go to our website at www.piell.org. We will be offering our next 2-day Tutor Training session on February 2nd and 9th.



Tutor and Board Member, Diane Miessler reading a book with some of the children who attended our Annual Potluck with their family recently.

The Dedication of a PiELL Student

By Emi Sakai, Tutor

I arrived at Fidel's house at 1:30 today. His wife said he came home a little late because of the traffic and he was worried that he wouldn't be home in time for his lesson. I asked if Fidel always comes home on Monday at 12:30, because I had assumed he came home on Sunday afternoon. She said he only has a 1/2 day off and must return to Lincoln on Tuesday morning. My mouth dropped. I was planning to extend his lesson to 1 1/2 hours, but I decided not to as they need to be together as a family when he's only home for such a short time.

Spending time learning English is a very strong priority for him, and it shows in his eagerness to learn. Fidel is an ideal student. I am a very, very fortunate tutor!



PiELL's New Tutors

By Donna Cobb, Program Coordinator

In September we held our New Tutor Training, and trained seven new tutors (*pictured below*). The wonderful folks at Brunswick Village allowed us to use their conference room, which worked perfectly for our needs. It was comfortable, and they were very accommodating. We'd like to thank everyone at Brunswick Village for allowing us to use the space!

Our new tutors are proving to be a very motivated group of people, and they are looking forward to meeting their students. We couldn't do what we do without such altruistic people in our community.

Thank you so much!





Partners in English Language Learning
578 Sutton Way PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

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PiELL Event Calendar

New Tutor Training Schedule

Winter Training

February 2nd ~ Sessions 1 & 2
February 9th ~ Sessions 3 & 4

Fall Training

September 21st ~ Sessions 1 & 2
September 28th ~ Sessions 3 & 4

Spring Training

May 11th ~ Sessions 1 & 2
May 18th ~ Sessions 3 & 4

**Must attend both days.*

Check our website for events: www.piell.org

PiELL

Student Demographics
(12 Months)

<u>Asia</u>	<u>Latin America</u>
China	Argentina
Mongolia	Cuba
Thailand	El Salvador
Vietnam	Mexico
<u>Other</u>	Nicaragua
Poland	Paraguay
Spain	Peru

Partners in English Language Learning

Mailing Address:

578 Sutton Way, PMB 198
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone/Fax: (530) 274-8428

Email: admin@piell.org

www.piell.org

Office Hours

Mon: 1:30—5:00
Wed: 2:30—6:00
Fri: 9:30—1:00

Thank You...

to the following businesses where PiELL students and tutors meet in a comfortable and welcoming environment!

BriarPatch Co-op	Nevada City Library
Brunswick Village	Penn Valley Community Church
Caroline's Coffee	Safeway, Brunswick Basin
Flour Garden Bakeries	Summer Thyme's Bakery & Deli
Grass Valley Library	What's Up Coffee?
Nevada County Country Club	

Congratulations and thank you to the 2012 Graduates of our New Tutor Training!

Chris Crain	Louisa Ripley
Janet Ehlers	Emi Sakai
Corina Furst	Norema Strongin
Kathy Mann	Kathy Tuttle
Pamela Osgood	Rod Wells